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The role of the old labor-contractor boss has been changed to sound more democratic, but the same men are still carrying on as foremen and section leaders. They are still not required to labor themselves; they receive 40 more units of grain a day than the miners, and extract 3 percent of each miner's pay each month for themselves. The laborers greatly resent these conditions, but the foremen have the last word on hiring and firing, and the workers therefore cannot help themselves. The foremen also augment their income by reporting names of workmen not employed and by helping themselves to certain of the supplies.

In 1949, coal production for this area was only 87 percent of the quota. The quota for 1950 was raised to 118.9 percent of that for 1949, but during January 1950, the area had produced only 96 percent of the month's quota and during February production fell to only 75 percent of the quota. While in March the shortages for the two former months should be made up, during the first 15 days of March the quota for the first half of the month had not been reached.

Although the Yang-ch'uan Mining Bureau has been informed by higher authority that the contractor system is feudalistic and extortionist, the bureau not only has not done away with it, but has recognized the contractors as technicians and holds the idea that without them it would be impossible to carry on. Even the labor union, while recognizing that all is not well, takes no action against the system, lest production be curtailed. When the authorities instituted tighter regulations to insure regularity in attendance, the labor union cadres resisted them and made execution of the plans impossible. This condition prevails even though the area has been liberated for 3 years.

At present, the Ministry of Fuel Industries has sent an inspection committee to look into the matter. The North China state-operated coal mines labor union is also cooperating in the investigation.

KIANGSI MINES EXCEED QUOTAS -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 5 Apr 50

Nan-ch'ang, 3 April (Hsin-hua) -- The major publicly operated mines in Kiangsi Province have already completed and exceeded their production quotas for January and February. The various mines under the jurisdiction of the state-operated Kiangsi Tin and Tungsten Corporation had mined 23.7 percent of their whole year's quota; the year's quota for the state-operated P'ing-hsiang Mining Office was exceeded by 7.25 percent. February production at the provincially operated T'ien-ho Coal Mine was 6.7 percent above January.

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